

Top British Intelligence Aide Bared as Red Spy 34 Years

LONDON (UPI) — Britain's secret Service today faced a rigorous check-up after the disclosure that a former top intelligence official and Britain's top link with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, had been a Russian spy for 34 years.

John Philby told radio and television audiences that his father, Harold (Kim) Philby, who vanished from Beirut four years ago while working as a newspaper correspondent, told him recently in Moscow he had been a spy for the Russians since 1933.

It was reported that Kim Philby, now 55, had been recruited by Soviet intelligence only a few months after he left Cambridge University. He later became a senior officer in British intelligence and was slated to become head of MI6 before he was fired.

Informed sources said that Philby recruited Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean as Soviet agents in 1938 while they were working for the British Foreign service and he tipped them off that they had been discovered. Burgess and Maclean defected in 1951. Maclean still lives in Moscow. Burgess died there.



HAROLD (Kim) PHILBY

Philby visited his father in Moscow recently.

"I admire him very much," Philby said. "For what he did could not have been easy—and he did it very well. He worked

for the Russians for 30 years, without receiving anything for it. There was only one conclusion you could draw — that he did it for ideological reasons."

Philby said his father is now working in Moscow as a journalist and is "free for the first time in 34 years to think and speak freely and being rewarded excellently for those many years' service to communism."

"I am absolutely convinced — and it is obvious — that he is a Communist and has served the communism of Soviet Russia for 34 years, ever since he left Cambridge in 1933.

"Although I do not disapprove of what he has done, I know he did not enjoy abusing his position or his friendships as a spy.

"When I saw him in Moscow, he was being treated excellently, as one would expect to be treated for that service, a very important person, a VIP."

Marcus Lipton, the Labor member of Parliament who in 1955 named Philby as the "third man" in the Burgess and Maclean affair, said last night, "There must be many red faces in the Foreign Office and in our security services now... It took the Foreign Office eight years to discover that I was right... They and the Secret Service behaved with incredible stupidity in going to all lengths to clear him."

Lipton said that former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, who was foreign secretary at the time Lipton named Philby as the "third man," got up in the House of Commons and gave Kim Philby the warmest of testimonials.

"Philby had access to the very highest secret intelligence," Lipton said. "He was in close touch with the CIA in America. No wonder the Americans were fed up to the back teeth when it was discovered he was the third man."

It was reported that Philby, who is now employed by the Soviet feature agency Novosti, may be working on the new English language digest magazine Sputnik, which is due to appear in Britain later this year.